



The State of Texas and the Texas Commission on Law Enforcement 2013 State of Texas Law Enforcement Achievement Awards Recipients

Professional Achievement

Officer David A. Cloninger

Fort Worth Police Department

Officer David Cloninger, who is now retired from the Fort Worth Police Department, was highly involved with community outreach on his beat. Officer Cloninger with a fellow officer contacted residents of a section 8 low income apartment complex and began an art project called PS1 in 2012. Each week, the officers would meet with the youths living at the apartment complex, instilling trust while having fun creating art projects. The art projects were sold in the community at different festivals and events. The apartment complex manager, seeing that Officer Cloninger's efforts were making a difference in the youth, opened an activity room with a TV, games and a basketball area. The Law Enforcement Professional Achievement award is presented to Officer David A. Cloninger for his impact to law enforcement and his community.

Chief Investigator Michael Adair

Tarrant County District Attorney's Office

The North Central Texas Major Case Investigative Team (MCIT) was organized primarily through the efforts of Chief Investigator Michael Adair. Established in 2010, the MCIT assists smaller law enforcement agencies in the investigation of major crimes and no costs to the agency by providing a pool of resources and expert investigators. Forty law enforcement agencies within six counties comprise the MCIT. A recent success of the MCIT was the arrest of the person responsible for the death of a 6 year old girl, found wrapped in a tarp in the city of Saginaw in 2013. Chief Investigator Michael Adair of the Tarrant County District Attorney's Office earned the State's Law Enforcement Professional Achievement award for his innovative ideas that impact the law enforcement profession. Mr. Adair retired in January 2014 after nearly 44 years of law enforcement service.

Public Service

Sergeant Casey D. Mills

Fort Worth Police Department

Sergeant Casey Mills of the Fort Worth Police Department impacted his community while working on and off duty with the Beginner Community Support Group. This support group first began to aid refugees from Bhutan of South Asia, the African Congo and other African nations. Sergeant Mills provided positive interactions to alleviate apprehension in the community and aided these refugees in assimilating to their new environment. Many of the refugees had great fears of the police after being harassed, tortured and seen others killed in their own country. Sergeant Mills researched

various topics and social norms to bring about a greater understanding and empowerment to the refugee's success in the United States. The Law Enforcement Public Service award is presented to Sergeant Casey D. Mills of the Fort Worth Police Department.

Valor

Lieutenant James N. Gray, Jr.

Corpus Christi Police Department

Corpus Christi Police Officer Lieutenant James Gray was patrolling a neighborhood around one o'clock in the morning on August 9, 2013, when he smelled smoke. He called dispatch asking if the fire department was working any fires in the area, when told no he doubled back looking for the source of the smoke. Lieutenant Gray then observed fire coming from the garage and roof of a house. Lieutenant Gray knocked on the doors and windows to awaken the homeowners. He eventually heard a voice saying that he was unable to open the door, so Lieutenant Gray kicked the door open and rescued the homeowner, his wife, their 4 young daughters and 2 other little girls that were sleeping over. Lieutenant Gray also evacuated the two neighboring homes and sprayed water on the houses until the fire department arrived. It is for Lieutenant James N. Gray's brave and unrelenting efforts that the Valor award is given.

Officer Thomas A. Bamrick

Fort Worth Police Department

On June 23, 2013, Officer Thomas Bamrick was dispatched to the apartment of a man threatening to throw a female off the balcony. Officer Bamrick observed broken glass on the sidewalk and a broken window upstairs. After identifying himself and receiving no response, Officer Bamrick breached the front door and heard cries of help coming from the back bedroom. The female victim was being stabbed by a male with a large kitchen knife. The suspect continued to stab the victim even after officer Bamrick verbally ordered him to stop. It wasn't until Officer Bamrick fired his weapon that the male subject stopping the deadly assault. The Law Enforcement Valor award is presented for Officer Thomas A. Bamrick's quick actions and bravery in the line of duty.

Officer Marty R. Stone

Fort Worth Police Department

Fort Worth Police Officer Marty Stone responded to a Commercial Holdup alarm at a Whataburger early in the morning of April 24, 2013. Officer Stone observed the suspect walking away from the business and darting to the back of a residence. While pursuing the suspect, the suspect re-emerged from behind the residence, advancing toward Officer Stone. The suspect fired his semi-automatic pistol hitting Officer Stone in the thigh. Officer Stone returned fire striking the suspect several times and rendering him immobile. Officer Stone retrieve his trauma kit and, with the assistance of another officer, was able to stabilize his injury while waiting for an ambulance. Fort Worth Police Department Officer Marty R. Stone is presented the Valor award for his courageous actions.

Patrol Officer Chad W. Davis

Granbury Police Department

On June 28, 2013, dispatchers sent out a call of "officer down." Hood County Sheriff's Deputy Lance McLean had been shot and killed after responding to a disturbance at a residence. Granbury Police Department Patrol Officer Chad Davis responded and began pursuing the suspect's vehicle. The

suspect, wearing body armor, stopped and exited his vehicle with an assault-styled rifle near citizens at the town square. Leaving his cover of safety to draw attention away from the citizens, Officer Davis was in the open as the suspect began firing his weapon at him. Officer Davis was shot and wounded in the gun battle. Arriving officers shot and killed the suspect. Granbury Police Officer Chad Davis risked his life to save others and is honored with the Valor award.

Officer Jose A. Villarreal

Harlingen Police Department

Reports of hearing gunfire on February 3, 2013, sent Officer Jose Villarreal of the Harlingen Police Department to the scene. Officer Villarreal witnessed a male subject standing in his driveway holding a handgun with a female standing next to him. As the officers arrived, they saw the subject shoot the female in the chest, and prepare to shoot her again after she fell to the ground. Officer Villarreal did not hesitate to place his life in harm's way killing the suspect. His brave actions saved the life of the subject's spouse. Officer Villarreal of the Harlingen Police Department is awarded the Law Enforcement Achievement for Valor, for acting with great courage in a situation that was life-threatening to other officers, and saving the victim from more harm or death.

Senior Police Officer Jason E. Draycott

Houston Police Department

On September 30, 2013, Senior Police Officer Jason Draycott of the Houston Police Department responded to a Cutting-in-Progress call. The victim of the stabbing had barricaded himself in a back bedroom to escape from the suspect and was screaming for help. The suspect, seeing Officer Draycott through a window, punched out the glass, climbed out, and began attacking Officer Draycott. Officer Draycott fired shots striking the suspect in the chest, but the suspect continued to advance. Taking a tactical retreat, Officer Draycott fell and the suspect continued his attack until help arrived. The Valor award is presented Houston Police Department's Senior Police Officer Jason E. Draycott for placing his life in serious danger to save another person.

Officer John C. Fisher, Jr.

Houston Police Department

Houston Police Officer John C. Fisher rescued a female and a 1-year old baby who were being held at knifepoint by a suspect on February 13, 2013. Officer Fisher was responding to a welfare check, and at the front door of the location he could hear a female screaming for help. Officer Fisher forced his way inside and found a female clutching a baby with a male wielding a large knife at them. The woman dropped the baby and ran out to safety. The male suspect picked up the child. Officer Fisher's efforts to talk the male suspect, who was high on crack cocaine, to surrender failed. The suspect fled to the bathroom and Officer Fisher observed that the suspect was attempting to slash the baby's throat. Officer Fisher, fearing for the baby's life, discharged his weapon twice and incapacitated the suspect leaving the child unharmed. Officer John Fisher's control of the situation saved the lives of a child and mother. Today, we would like to honor Houston Police Officer John V. Fisher Jr. with the State of Texas Law Enforcement Achievement Award for Valor.

Officer Landon N. Rollins

Irving Police Department

On June 10, 2012, Irving Police Department Officer Landon Rollins was working undercover when he heard a dispatch about a shooting incident. Officer Rollins responded to the call and found one

individual that had been shot. Armed with only his duty weapon and vest, Officer Rollins and another officer begin to search the area for the suspect. They located the suspect who was on a second story landing of an apartment building with an AK47 style rifle. As the suspect took aim at Officer Rollins, rather than retreat for cover, he engaged the suspect with his pistol to end the threat. Due to on-going litigation the nomination could not be submitted until 2013. The Valor award is given for great courage in placing his own life in grave danger to Officer Landon N. Rollins of the Irving Police Department.

Sergeant Kirk R. Hamm

Richland Hills Police Department

On September 20, 2013, Sergeant Kirk R. Hamm of the Richland Hills Police Department spotted a vehicle that had struck a tree at a high rate of speed and stopped to assist. The vehicle was engulfed in smoke. At first, Sergeant Hamm's vision was obscured by the smoke, and he was not able to determine if the vehicle was still occupied. Not knowing if the vehicle might explode or burst into flames, he disregarded his own safety to enter the badly damaged vehicle and located an unconscious driver inside. Sergeant Hamm pulled the driver to safety as flames engulfed the interior of the vehicle saving the driver's life at a risk to Sergeant Hamm's own life. This heroic act is awarded with the State's Law Enforcement achievement award for Valor to Sergeant Kirk R. Hamm of the Richland Hills Police Department.

Deputy Arthur Senteno

Washington County Sheriff's Office

Washington County Sheriff's Deputy Arthur Senteno responded to a call about a structure fire on March 2, 2013. After being told by radio dispatch that an elderly man, who resided there, had gone back into the residence to rescue their dogs, Deputy Senteno entered the home. The flames and smoke were heavy leaving little visibility. Deputy Senteno called out and heard a faint sound. He located the elderly man, and safely removed him from the residence. Today, we would like to honor Deputy Arthur Senteno for the actions he took without regard for his own safety to save a life with the Valor State of Texas Law Enforcement award.

Lieutenant Michael Irving

West Police Department

On April 17, 2013, West Police Department Lieutenant Michael Irving discovered smoke emitting from the West Fertilizer Plant. After contacting the fire department, Lieutenant Irving proceeded to the city park, which is adjacent to the fertilizer plant, to evacuate juveniles because of the fatal fumes, smoke and flames. Lieutenant Irving suffering hearing loss and chemical burns from the plant explosion administered first aid to a young person until her mother could evacuate her. Lieutenant Irving later located two injured firefighters, bringing one to safety and carrying the other who collapsed close to the fertilizer plant, to safety. The Valor award is presented to West Police Department's Lieutenant Michael Irving for his bravery.

Officer Mark B. Pope

West Police Department

West Police Department's Officer Mark Pope was off-duty attending an EMT class when the West Fertilizer Plant fire was reported on April 17, 2013. He assisted Officer Irving in traffic control when the plant exploded causing chemical burns and cuts to his body. Officer Pope continued to

evacuate the injured and elderly from a nearby nursing home without regard for his own injuries or safety. It is for this reason that the State of Texas Law Enforcement award for Valor is given.